IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 20.   Canceled

21 (Previously Presented).   A method of communication in a network comprising a network node and a plurality of modems coupled to the network node by a common master loop, the method comprising:

      initiating communication between a first modem and the network node;

      initiating communication between a second modem and the network node;

      directing the first modem to release a portion of communication bandwidth used by the
            first modem;

      using the portion of communication bandwidth released by the first modem for the
            second modem to establish simultaneous communication over the common
            master loop between the network node and the first and second modems.

22 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 21, wherein
the first modem is configured to communicate with the network node as a master terminal
            while maintaining a superframe of the communication bandwidth.

23 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 22, wherein
the first and second modems are configured to communicate with the network node using
            time division multiplexing; and
the first modem releases one or more time frames for the second modem to communicate
            in the network.

24 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 22, wherein

the first and second modems are configured to communicate with the network node using

frequency division multiplexing; and

the first modem releases one or more frequency tones for the second modem to

communicate in the network.

25 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second modems are configured to communicate with each other via the network node over the common master loop.

26 (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second modems are configured to communicate in the network using signals compatible with ADSL standards.

27 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 21, wherein the common master loop comprises a single twisted pair of conductors.

28 (Previously Presented).   A method of operating a modem in a network, the method comprising:

initializing the modem to communicate with a network node via a master loop; and

upon receiving a signal from the network node, releasing a portion of communication

bandwidth used by the modem for one or more communication terminals coupled to the network node via the master loop, wherein the modem releases the portion of the communication bandwidth while maintaining a superframe of the communication bandwidth.

29 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 28, wherein

the modem is configured to communicate with the network node using time division

multiplexing; and

the modem releases one or more time frames for the one or more communication terminals.

30 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 28, wherein

TI-28222   - 3 -

the modem is configured to communicate with the network node using frequency division

multiplexing; and

the modem releases one or more frequency tones for the one or more communication

terminals.

31 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 28, wherein the modem and the one or more communication terminals are configured to communicate in the network using signals compatible with ADSL standards.

32 (New).   A communication system for communication in a network comprising a network node and a plurality of modems coupled to the network node by a common master loop, the system comprising:

means for initiating communication between a first modem and the network node;

means for initiating communication between a second modem and the network node;

means for directing the first modem to release a portion of communication bandwidth

used by the first modem;

means for using the portion of communication bandwidth released by the first modem for

the second modem to establish simultaneous communication over the common

master loop between the network node and the first and second modems.

33 (New).   The system of claim 32, wherein

the first modem is configured to communicate with the network node as a master terminal

while maintaining a superframe of the communication bandwidth.

34 (New).   The system of claim 33, wherein

the first and second modems are configured to communicate with the network node using

time division multiplexing; and

the first modem is further configured to release one or more time frames for the second

modem to communicate in the network.

35 (New).   The system of claim 33, wherein

the first and second modems are configured to communicate with the network node using

    frequency division multiplexing; and the first modem is further configured to

    release one or more frequency tones for the second modem to communicate in the

    network.

36 (New).   The system of claim 32, wherein the first and second modems are
configured to communicate with each other via the network node over the common master loop.

37 (New)   The system of claim 32, wherein the first and second modems are
configured to communicate in the network using signals compatible with ADSL standards.

38 (New).   The system of claim 32, wherein the common master loop comprises a
single twisted pair of conductors.

39 (New).   A system of operating a modem in a network, the system comprising:
means for initializing the modem to communicate with a network node via a master loop;
    and
means for releasing a portion of communication bandwidth used by the modem, upon

    receiving a signal from the network node, for one or more communication

    terminals coupled to the network node via the master loop, wherein the modem

    releases the portion of the communication bandwidth while maintaining a

    superframe of the communication bandwidth.

40 (New).   The system of claim 39, wherein
the modem is configured to communicate with the network node using time division

    multiplexing; and
the modem releases one or more time frames for the one or more communication

    terminals.

41 (New).   The system of claim 39, wherein

the modem is configured to communicate with the network node using frequency division

multiplexing; and

the modem releases one or more frequency tones for the one or more communication

terminals.

42 (New).   The system of claim 39, wherein the modem and the one or more

communication terminals are configured to communicate in the network using signals

compatible with ADSL standards.

TI-28222   - 6 -